



4

Hitohira

IDUMI KIRIHARA



3

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THE DAY OF THE THEATER GROUP'S BIG PLAY IS FINALLY HERE. RELUCTANTLY CAST IN THE LEAD ROLE, SUPER-SHY MUGI ASAI WILL SOON FIND HERSELF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE AND WILL HAVE TO FACE HER BIGGEST FEAR. ALTHOUGH SHE ENJOYS ACTING NOW AND DOESN'T WANT TO LET HER FRIENDS DOWN, HOW WILL SHE HOLD UP WHEN HER MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT ARRIVES? AFTER THE PLAY, WHAT STAGE AWAITS MUGI NEXT?



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TEEN

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# Hitohira 3

IDUMI KIRIHARA

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*For This Day*  
Chapter 16















What are we gonna do if Nono loses her voice on stage today?

We have to figure out a backup plan to cover our butts.

THAT'S RIGHT.



I think it's best for you to sit this one out.

And after that?!

If Nono's on stage and that happens, we gotta make it look like it's part of the play and get her off stage ASAP.

Hmm?!

NONO'S BECOME A REAL WILD CARD.

WE NEVER KNOW WHEN SHE'LL LOSE HER VOICE.



You're being selfish.

Is this about you or the good of the play?

Why's she being so stubborn?

Wouldn't it be easier for her if she just gave in?



You'd really let the play bomb just so you could be on stage again?



I won't.

Nono

Heh



Nono's been working so hard for this day.

May I?

But...

...then why do this play at all?



If she loses her voice... she can give us a sign, and we'll improvise.

She has to stay on stage with us.

What if we... improvise?!

Nono's worked harder on this play than any of us. She's our leader.





Let's do this!

Really?



OK, then.

Besides, we've known about Nono's condition all along...

We're all in this together.



I'm with Mugi on this one.



Well, you're the ones who came up with the idea.

Wha-?! Why us?!



Right. What kind of sign do you want Nono to give you?

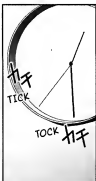
Yeah, if you two think improvisation is the answer...

...then fine, I guess you guys are in charge of that department.













*I can't even laugh...*

This is so not good, it's bad...

She's really nervous.

Heh.

*Why the world is so unfair...*

...while everybody else looks so happy.

Get those thoughts out of your tiny heads!

She read our minds!

Can't really hear what she's saying up there...

GRRR

Saki,  
oooooooooooo!

It doesn't have to be this way!

I give up.

*If this is all life has to offer, I've had enough.*

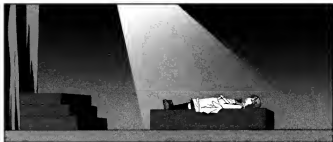
SHAKE

SHAKE

PLEASE STOP SHAKING.

STOP SHAKING!









*Just not  
any you  
knew of.*

THEY'RE  
ALL HERE  
WITH ME.

*I thought  
I had no  
friends.*



I'M  
OK  
NOW.



Risaki was  
always a good  
actress.

sob  
Cry

It seems  
like Mugi's  
feeling more  
comfortable  
now.

And  
Mugi  
Tanashi's  
so great. ♡



*We're just a  
ragtag trio of  
cute fairies  
who spread  
happiness.*



NOD  
OFF



*I'll  
introduce  
you to  
them.*

*And  
Lomano's  
the guy  
with the  
weird  
smile.*

*That  
wannabe  
popular  
girl is  
Marie.*



STRAIGHT  
THROUGH

How  
dare  
you?!  
Give it  
back!

That's  
my  
diary!

INOOOO!  
アホアホアホ

I  
guess

It's just that  
you can't  
touch what  
only you  
can see.

No...  
Didn't she  
already  
tell you  
what we  
are?

What just  
happened?  
Are you  
ghosts?

...we'll have  
to tell you  
one more  
time.





THE SIGN?!







Everybody  
understand?

OK then,  
if Nono loses  
her voice in  
the middle  
of the play...

...she's  
gonna  
give us  
a clear  
sign.

NOD  
huy

NOD  
huy

ARE WE ALL  
ON THE SAME  
PAGE?



WIND  
UP

NONO...?!

ひとひら  
Hitohira





*Only Me, Now Chapter 17*

Nono...

SLAP

DID YOU  
REALLY...?

THROB

RUB

What...?







THIS ISN'T  
REHEARSAL!



She  
blew it!



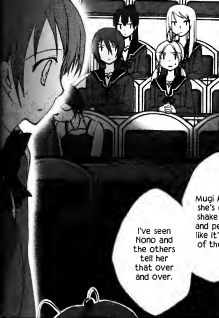
*If she loses  
her voice...  
she can give  
us a sign,  
and we'll  
improvise.*

IT WAS  
MY IDEA!



Oh,  
Mugi...!

CHATTER  
ザッ..  
ザッ..



I've seen  
Nono and  
the others  
tell her  
that over  
and over.

Mugi knows  
she's gotta  
shake it off  
and perform  
like it's part  
of the act.



Oh, no!  
I'm definitely  
feeling some  
bad vibes from  
the audience.



I know  
her...

She won't  
talk to you  
until you  
change your  
attitude!

She's just  
upset at your  
negativity and  
pessimism!



Fairies  
don't  
lose their  
voices.





BACK ME  
UP HERE!

Let  
me...

...Shulia,  
tell you  
of the  
happiness  
of living.

Right.  
Right.



COME  
ON,  
MUGI!

WHAT...  
...SHOULD  
I DO?

PLIP

ポム..



A LINE.

I GOTTA SAY  
SOMETHING.

CAN'T  
THINK.

MY MIND  
IS BLANK.

NOTHING.

And what if  
you forget  
one of  
your lines?





And I know  
I'm gonna  
forget for  
sure!

You've  
taught me,  
but I still  
don't know  
what I'd  
do...

Anything  
can happen  
up there...



IF THIS WOULD  
HAVE HAPPENED  
AN HOUR FROM  
NOW, I'D BE  
OFF STAGE.

AND IF THIS WOULD  
HAVE HAPPENED  
AN HOUR AGO,  
I WOULDN'T HAVE  
GOTTEN ON STAGE  
IN THE FIRST PLACE.



I KNEW  
I'D LOSE  
MY VOICE,  
EVENTUALLY.

BUT...

...WHY  
DOES IT  
HAVE TO BE  
RIGHT NOW,  
ON STAGE?



Now if you could only apply that positivity to your acting, you wouldn't forget your lines.

Mysterious Mug!

How can you be so positively unconfident?



SHE DOES ME THE FAVOR OF SCOLDING ME... OFTEN.

RISAKI NISHIDA

...



*Your unintelligible babble is better for distracting the audience, egghead!*

Risaki, you teach her to improvise. You're good at making up semi-interesting talk off the top of your head.



HE SUPPORTS ME, EVEN WHEN I DON'T REALIZE IT.

TAKASHI KATSURAGI

...

Shut up,  
pipsqueak!

Sis, you're always  
so rough and  
straightforward.

He's fussy,  
but he  
understands  
the feelings  
of others.

KAI  
NESHIDA  
...

...  
MUGI  
ASAI.

I can't  
help but  
worry  
about  
that.

...that if I can't  
remember one  
of my lines,  
I'll also blank  
out on making  
up my own?

But ...  
...have  
you  
considered...

AND  
FINALLY...



WHEN SHE'S  
NERVOUS,  
SHE CURLS UP  
INTO A BALL.



SHE CAN'T  
EXPRESS  
HERSELF.



...BUT HER  
VOICE CAN BE  
POWERFUL  
AND HER  
PERFORMANCE  
IS SINCERE.

SHE'S AN  
UNLIKELY  
ACTOR...



SHE'S  
STRUGGLED,  
BUT SHE  
HASN'T  
GIVEN UP.

SHE REMINDS  
ME OF WHAT  
I WAS,  
BEFORE  
THEATER  
CHANGED ME.

I FELT LIKE  
I HAD TO  
BE TOUGH  
ON HER.



SHE'S  
COME A  
LONG WAY.

TO HERE...  
TO THIS  
STAGE...  
TO THIS VERY  
MOMENT.



ALL OF  
THEM...

...FOLLOWED  
ME HERE, AND  
BECAUSE OF  
THAT, I CAN BE  
ON STAGE, TOO.



You...

coward.

I DON'T CARE  
IF I LOSE  
MY VOICE...

I got it.  
We can  
feed you  
lines that'll  
make you  
remember  
*your* line.

IF YOU  
HATE ME...  
IF WE  
ARGUE...

YOU GAVE  
ME THEATER,  
AND IT GAVE  
ME HOPE.

I MET YOU  
AT THIS  
SCHOOL,  
AND HERE...

Even  
now...

Can't  
you...

...you have  
nothing...

...to lose





I WANTED  
TO KEEP  
ACTING!

...at least...

...let us  
help you?



THAT  
VOICE...  
It's  
HORRIBLE  
...

YOU'VE  
RUINED  
YOURSELF.



I CAN'T  
LET HER  
DOWN!  
NOT NOW!



I TRIED TO  
WARN YOU...

Nono...

She's  
trying so  
hard...  
for me.

SPARK

I WON'T!

*I  
believe  
in you!*







*You're  
absolutely  
right about  
my attitude!*



*I believe  
you can  
help me to  
be happy,  
so change  
me!*



Huh...?



SHE  
FOUND IT!

TREMBLE



*Well?!*

*Let me  
see you  
do it!*





*SHE WAS A NORMAL GIRL WHO HATED BEING  
THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.*



*BUT WITH LOTS OF EFFORT AND SUPPORT  
ON THE PART OF HER FRIENDS...*



*HERE SHE IS, RIGHT NOW...*

*Won't Forget This Day Chapter 18*







MAYBE IT  
WAS JUST THAT  
SHE SUDDENLY  
SPOKE LOUDLY...  
PEOPLE MAY  
EVEN SAY  
THAT IT WAS  
NOTHING.



IT WAS A  
SIGHT...  
NO, A  
SOUND...  
TO BEHOLD.



...  
TRANSFORMED  
THE MOOD OF  
THE ENTIRE  
HALL.



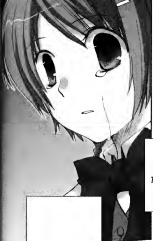
BUT,  
HER  
VOICE  
...



...TO FOCUS  
ON THE GIRL  
WHOSE VOICE  
IT WAS.

AND  
DREW  
ALL  
EYES...





Only  
unhappy  
people  
can see  
us.

HER  
TEARS  
...



...FLOWED  
NATURALLY...



I  
couldn't  
be  
happier.

Nothing.



What's  
wrong?



...AS DID  
HER WORDS.

These  
are...

...tears  
of joy,  
that's  
all.



Well...  
Another  
time,  
then.

Another  
time.



I'm OK  
now.  
Go on.

Oh...

Kanzaki?!

Where  
are  
you?!

...THEY  
WOULD BE  
SHOCKED.

I haven't  
thanked  
you yet!

I'm  
sorry!

I'm so  
glad  
to be  
alive!



IF ONLY  
THOSE WHO  
KNEW HER  
BEFORE,  
COULD SEE  
HER NOW...

Hey!

Are you  
guys  
there?

I can't  
see you  
anymore!



*I know I'll face  
tough times,  
because they  
are a part  
of life.*

*But with  
hope,  
I'll be all  
right.*

*I've  
found  
joy, and  
with it,  
hope.*

*She...*

*...WAS...*

*...  
GLOWING.*

*Maybe  
you were all  
just in my  
imagination.*

*But,  
thank  
you!*



SHINE

That  
couldn't  
have  
turned out  
better.

Whew!

Mission  
accomplished.

At least  
we'll  
never be  
out of a  
job.

Hmph!

Our  
work's  
never  
done,  
is it?

A piece  
of cake.

Hey, look  
over there!  
You see  
that unhappy  
guy?

Hey,  
you over  
there....!

Let's  
do it.

So...  
...shall  
we move  
on to  
the next  
person  
then?



**BRAVO!**











110 7  
CLAP

110 7 CLAP

I...  
...WON'T...

110 7  
CLAP

CLAP

...FORGET  
THIS DAY.

110 7 CLAP





Thank  
you very  
much!

The last  
scene  
was very  
touching.

It was  
really  
unique.

There's a vote  
to decide which  
theater club  
will remain and  
which one will  
be disbanded.

If you liked  
our play,  
please vote  
for us and  
put a ball in  
this box.

Muuuugi!

Please fill  
out the  
question-  
naire, too.

Pens are  
over  
here.









OK!  
Coming!

oops!

Let's go,  
Chitose.



It's  
OK.

Don't  
worry.

Kyo...

I'm  
sorry...



You lost  
your voice  
for a play  
that's  
gonna lose.



Don't forget  
to fill out a  
questionnaire.

Don't forget  
to fill out a  
questionnaire.

Please don't  
miss out on  
coming.

Please don't  
miss out on  
coming.

MINGLE

MINGLE

No,  
I don't  
think so.

I fell  
asleep,  
too.

Was it  
my fault?

MINGLE





Thank you  
so much!

bow



Well...

Keep it  
up and  
good  
luck.

PAT  
wow

BUT...  
THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE HAS  
JUST BEGUN!



One  
simple  
rule.

Whoever got  
more balls  
wins, and  
whoever  
got fewer  
balls loses.







Everybody  
count  
together...



One!

TOSS





## Showdown Chapter 19



...AND WITH  
THEM OUR  
HOPES AND  
DREAMS.

Twenty-  
six!

Twenty-  
five!

THE BALLS  
WERE THROWN  
SKYWARD...



Forty!

THE  
COUNTING  
CONTINUED,  
RHYTHMICALLY.

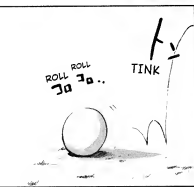


Forty-  
one!

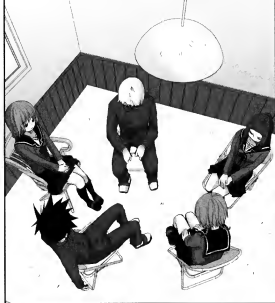
THE  
NUMBERS  
CLIMBED,  
UNTIL...



Forty-  
nine...







Theater Group

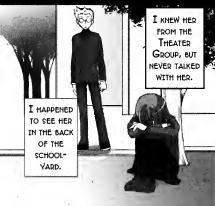














Oh ...  
I didn't mean to bother you.



...



Are you OK?



JUST TWO DAYS LATER...

...WHEN SHE CAME TO ME...

I need five members to make a club.



Well if that's how you feel, why don't you start your own club?

WE STARTED TALKING FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER.

I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT ANYTHING TO COME OF IT.



I WAS  
SHOCKED.

NOT ONLY WAS  
SHE ACTUALLY  
DOING IT,  
BUT SHE WAS  
DOING IT FAST.



I LAUGHED  
AT THE  
TIME.

Ha  
ha.

All  
right.  
I will.



Um...

Yes.

Well, I'm  
still in the  
Theater  
Group.  
so are  
you asking  
me to quit?

You'd  
have  
to.

NOSTALGIC

12/11

I never  
knew you  
were the  
one who  
planted  
the idea  
in her  
head.



You're  
what you  
are.

12/11



When I  
look back  
at it,  
she really  
caused  
a lot of  
trouble...

RISAKI  
JOINED TWO  
DAY'S LATER.

...  
want to join  
your club.

It's not some  
important  
thing I have  
to confess to  
all of you!



I...

Wait a  
minute.  
You played  
your own part  
in the whole thing.

You came to  
us suddenly,  
even though  
I don't know  
why you  
came at all.



How many  
times do  
I have to  
tell you?!  
It's her life  
and her  
body!

You're  
being  
stupid!

I SAW MIREI  
REALLY  
DEPRESSED  
AND ASKED  
HER WHY.

AND  
...

CHUCKLE

~ANI~

I just had...  
...a tiny  
argument.

BANG

That's the  
best idea  
you've  
ever had!

NEITHER  
OF US WAS  
GOING TO  
BACK DOWN.

I don't  
even want  
to try to  
explain this  
to you  
anymore!

You should  
just quit  
and join  
her!

BANG

I wasn't  
interested  
in this at  
all at first.

But,  
I learned  
that acting  
can be  
pretty fun.

If you  
say  
so...

Me  
neither.

No  
comments  
from the  
peanut  
gallery!

That's  
my sis!

ほっと  
おちな  
Don't  
"whew" me!

Whew!  
ほっ

I don't  
regret  
any of it,  
though.





GOTTEN  
ANGRY  
AT EACH  
OTHER...

WE'VE  
LAUGHED  
...

CRIED  
...



AND I  
WAS REALLY  
HURT.



NONO SAID  
SOME PRETTY  
ROUGH  
THINGS TO  
ME.



I  
GUESS...

...IT WAS  
TOUGH  
LOVE.

BUT...



I REALIZE  
NOW,  
THAT'S  
HOW SHE  
SHOWS THAT  
SHE CARES.

AFTER  
ALL...

I...

I just  
feel  
frus-  
trated.

I ONLY  
CAUSED THEM  
TROUBLE.

Everybody  
else tried  
their  
best...

I hope lots  
of people  
will come

Poster 8

Open  
wider.

ドキドキ

If I had  
tried  
harder,  
I could  
have  
done it!

SHE'S  
RUNNING  
AWAY!

If I had  
practiced  
more  
seriously  
from the  
beginning...

I'm  
sorry!

IT'S  
ALL MY  
FAULT!

ムズカッ







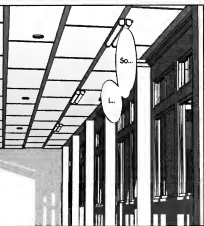
# Theater Group



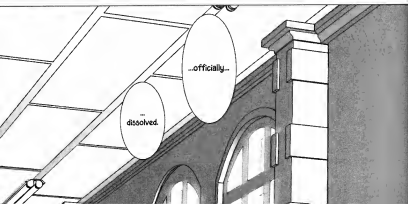
...happy  
that I  
am here  
with you













Theater Group





*Chitose's Challenge Chapter 20*



THE SENIORS  
LOOK BUSY,  
AND WORRIED  
ABOUT THEIR  
FUTURES.



SINCE THEN,  
THERE'S  
BEEN A BIG,  
EMPTY HOLE  
IN MY LIFE.

EVERYBODY  
DOES  
NOTHING  
BUT STUDY  
HARD.

THE  
FESTIVAL'S  
OVER AND  
OUR CLUB IS  
NO MORE.





WE ONLY GOT  
TOGETHER  
EVERY WEEK  
BECAUSE OF  
THE CLUB  
ACTIVITIES.

THAT'S WHAT  
KAI THINKS,  
AND MAYBE  
HE'S RIGHT.

AS FOR  
KAI AND  
ME...

...WE WENT  
BACK TO OUR  
NORMAL HIGH  
SCHOOL LIVES.





...have a Christmas party with all of the seniors from our clubs!



What's really up, Chitose?

GRAB



Good idea!

Let's ask them!

Why the heck would I want to spend Christmas with my sis?

CRUMPLE



Yeah, well... I won't deny that.

You just wanna see Takashi, right?



That's right.



It will be.



It's just that they're gonna graduate soon. This'll be our last chance to hang out with them.



CREAK

They'll all come, only if you invite them.

Me?! Why me?!

So I'll leave it up to you, Mugi.

Please, Mugi-Wugi!



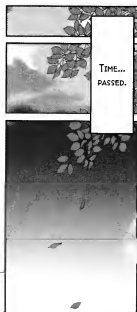














Oh, yes,  
delightfully  
wonderful...



HAPPY!

So  
romantic!

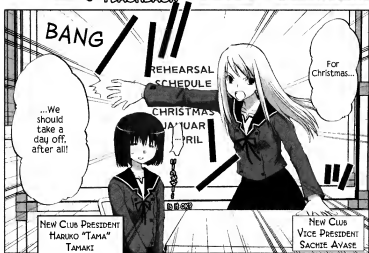


HAPPY!



Why the heck  
are we having  
the Christmas  
party in the  
Theater Group  
room?!

BAM



It's JUST  
NON-ALCOHOLIC  
CIDER!

GLUG GLUG  
GLUG  
トホホホ...



You know  
we're at  
school,  
right?







TA-DAH!

I submitted  
an absence  
excuse!

Risaki!

Why  
aren't  
you in  
class?!

Why not?!  
And  
what's  
with  
all the  
gloom?

Don't try  
to borrow  
money from  
us in the  
future.

It's *your*  
dead-end  
life after  
all.

What  
is  
this?!

I have a bad  
stomachache,  
so I can't  
come today.  
Please gimme  
credit  
though!

It can't  
be helped...  
Be  
strong,  
Takashi...

Don't  
cry for  
me!

Wait  
...!

I just  
hoped we  
could all  
graduate  
together.

TEARS









↑旧い思い出。 (Like old times...)

Like old times...









*Best Friends Chapter 21*



...YOU'LL HAVE  
LESS REGRETS  
LATER IF YOU  
CHOOSE TO  
DO IT.

IN LIFE,  
WHEN YOU  
HAVE TWO  
CHOICES...

...AND THOSE  
CHOICES  
ARE TO DO  
SOMETHING  
OR NOT DO  
SOMETHING...

I MAY BE  
REJECTED,  
BUT I HAVE  
TO TRY  
FOR HIM...  
THAT'S JUST  
WHO I AM.

Chihoee  
P!

Excuse  
me...

STARTLED

It's NOT  
LIKE ME  
TO HAVE  
REGRETS!

STEP

MEN







I...

I'm  
sorry...

I like  
Nono...

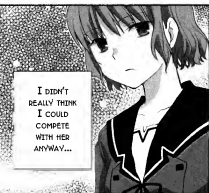


What am  
I gonna  
do...?!

You  
do?

I  
know!

わああ  
WAAH!



I DIDN'T  
REALLY THINK  
I COULD  
COMPETE  
WITH HER  
ANYWAY...



"PLEASE GO  
OUT WITH  
ME!"

I COULDN'T  
BRING  
MYSELF TO  
SAY IT.

Chitose  
...

TEARS  
あ...

...TO KNOW  
I CAN'T,  
REALLY  
HURTS.

BUT...



OUTSIDE...

...IT'S  
SNOWING  
HARD.

You're a  
pretty  
girl.

You can  
find a  
better  
guy.





You look pretty torn up.

Hm...  
ソノ



PHEW!

That class was absolute torture!

They finally let me go.

Sure ...



SLIDE  
ヒッ

Oh!

Well... They're both in the restroom.

Hey ...

...you guys!

うわわッ  
oops!

GLANCE  
オ  
オ

GLANCE  
オ  
オ

Hey, where's Tokashi and Chitose?

Why do you all look so jittery?

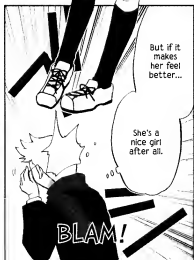


Let's have a snowball fight!















She's a lively one...

RISE





...belongs  
to another  
girl.

...my  
heart...

But...



Well...

...maybe  
you're  
right...



When  
did this  
happen?

Really?



I see...

This  
year,  
I don't  
want  
anybody  
else.



Perfect!

HAA...

EXCELLENT!

NOW!

TO PUT THIS  
ONE ON TOP...



HEAVE HO!

ふんふん

ふんふん

HEAVE HO!



Kayo.

You  
think this  
is big  
enough?

TA-DAH!

Done!



# CRUNCH

#

Let's put  
a scarf  
on him.

And  
stones  
for his  
face.



Great!









I'm so relieved to know you'll be all right.

Yes.



You think so?



I can't!

Without you, I don't know what I would do!

Even if I'm not with you...

...I know you can live brilliantly on your own.



Sis?!

If you wanna talk with her, why don't you just go over there?

GRIN

=+

=+ GRIN



JOLT







What?

What  
do you  
mean?

I won't  
be  
here...

...next  
year.





No...



Well...



I'm...

...going  
to study  
abroad.



...but it's  
true.

I'm  
sorry...



But I  
know  
you'll be  
OK.



So we can't  
be juniors  
together.





*We Were Together Chapter 22*



And what  
is your  
New Year's  
resolution?

To stay  
alive,  
I guess.

あ AHA HA  
は HA!  
は は  
は



Did you guys  
have an  
argument or  
something?

You always  
go to the  
shrine with  
Kayo.

カチカチ  
CHOP  
CHOP



So  
cool  
to  
watch

Hey,  
Mugi.

Aren't  
you going  
to the  
shrine this  
year?

Um....

CHOP

RING

RUSH

A

Oh, the phone!

RUSH

A

RUSH

A

It's not like that.

HAVING AN ARGUMENT...

...  
WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH BETTER  
...

I'm going to...

...study abroad.

I'm taking a leave of absence from school.

My parents agreed to let me go.

EVEN IF WE WERE MAD AT EACH OTHER...

...KAYO WOULD STILL BE CLOSE BY.



CHATTER

さわ  
さわ



Ah!

Kail!

Do I  
look  
weird?

Maybe  
I do...

Oh,  
I didn't  
braid my  
hair today.

Mugi?  
I almost  
didn't  
recognize  
you!







I have to give  
Mugi some  
distance until  
I go...



THIS IS A  
DIFFICULT  
MISSION...

...  
KAYO.

Hey,  
Mugi

Do you  
wanna  
pick a  
fortune?



PEEK  
ふっ









It wouldn't be so weird.

Tall girls are cool.



We were about the same height when we met.

You passed me!

I haven't measured my height recently so I don't know.

I am drinking milk every day.



Of course! Wouldn't it be weird if you were taller than me?!

ニんなん?  
LIKE THIS?

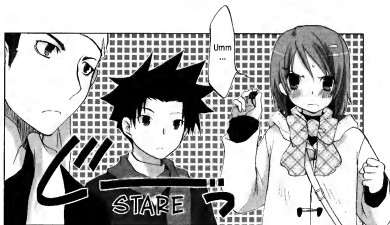


I'm not a guy, so of course I don't.

You don't know how guys think!



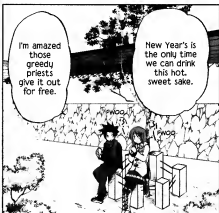








I love it.



I'm amazed those greedy priests give it out for free.

New Year's is the only time we can drink this hot, sweet sake.



Yeah...

I feel the same way.

...recently. I feel kinda bored.

You know, things were pretty hectic at the beginning of the school year with the theater club and all, but...



They were lively, which made us feel lively.





We're  
getting  
older.  
Ha ha!

Chitose  
and the Theater  
Group are  
having trouble  
finding new  
members.

She's upset  
that we're  
not gonna  
join.



He's in an  
art school  
and he's  
gonna join  
the Art  
Club?!  
How  
stupid!

When I  
men-  
tioned  
that you  
were  
joining  
the Art  
Club...

She  
told  
me.

LET'S DO  
THEATER!

She came  
up to me  
just to  
say that,  
too.



It's been  
three  
months  
since it all  
ended...

Time's  
flying by  
faster  
and  
faster.



DISGUSTED!

You're  
too  
obsessed  
with art!

You  
artsy-  
fartsy  
freak!

She  
said  
that...

I can  
totally  
picture  
what she  
looked  
like.



uh,  
well...

What  
are you  
gonna  
do?

Not  
gonna  
join any  
clubs?

TOSS



...  
I'm not  
saying I  
don't like  
theater  
though.



After all,  
I haven't  
changed  
much since  
I started  
school.



There's  
nothing  
I really  
want to  
do...

I don't  
think  
so...

Unless  
something  
interesting  
comes up.



Why not?

DASH

I didn't pray for anything.

Because I couldn't.

Did you hear...

...about Kayo going abroad?

Oh, I see.

Yeah. She told me.

PLOP

カ

The only thing I want is something I shouldn't pray for.

So I didn't.

Kayo and I have been together since the beginning of junior high.

TAP



So...

You know  
what my  
personality  
is like,  
right?

She took  
care of  
me very  
well and  
I've always  
depended  
on her.



Yeah  
...



When it's  
Kayo's  
turn to  
need  
help...

...I want  
to be the  
one who  
helps her.



That's when  
her dad took  
her to a  
photo gallery,  
and she was  
inspired.

It's been her  
dream to be a  
photographer.

Ever since  
she was in  
elementary  
school.



K

...closer  
and closer  
to her  
dream.

Kayo's  
moving  
forward...

TUMP



Mugi  
...

She told me  
about her  
plans at the  
Christmas  
party.



She said she  
wanted me  
to support  
her decision.

What do  
you think  
I said  
to her  
at that  
time?



While I'm  
paralyzed  
by  
shyness.

She'll  
leave me  
behind.

TUMP

She won't  
ever need  
my help.

TUMP



Nothing.

I didn't say  
anything.



Supporting  
her means  
letting her  
not help me  
anymore.

I didn't  
want her  
to leave  
me.

That was  
all I could  
think of.



Sorry.

Xie hi...

re hi...

Mugi...

I think I'm feeling a little funny from the sake.

I'm OK.

Hi...



See you next time, then.

I gotta get home.

CRUMPLE

4/4

I'm...

...not a good friend.

I never deserved to have a friend like Kayo.

Because I can't be a true friend to her.



Yeah ...

Next time.



...IS MUGI'S  
HAND WHEN  
SHE WAS IN  
HER SECOND  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR HIGH!

THIS...



Ha!  
Gotcha!

Kayo  
...!

ONE  
DAY IN  
SUMMER...

That is  
against  
school  
regulations...

...Ms.  
Asail!

STARTLED

MATH

Don't be  
mad!  
Your  
nails  
are  
really  
cute!

♪ GLOOM ♪

You  
sure  
did!



But it is pretty weird!

Putting paint on your nails!

Also, it feels like I'm an adult.

I thought something weird was going on.

Every girl goes through this...

何かは  
目覚めを  
たふと  
抱えた

Misa was just making fun of my nails.

It's her fault!

Lipstick  
and  
makeup,  
too!

リップ  
メイク  
も  
いっ  
ぱい  
する  
の

Hey!

Let's go buy some nail polish today!

Yeah...

Too many to choose from...

Wow!

BROWSING



Expensive!

Why is brand name stuff always super expensive?!



¥2625

Wow!



Ahl!

That's brand name stuff!

Oh, this bottle is really cute...!



Yeah! Who'd ever wear this color?

Purple?!

Kajo, that's too flashy!

Hey, what about this?

Cheap ones are fine, Mugi.



You girls are so cute!

Are you looking for nail polish?

Can I help you?

FUJITA

